

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence with at least 80% identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 24 wherein said polypeptide reacts with antibodies induced by porcine gamma herpes virus.

2. The isolated polypeptide of claim 1 wherein said amino acid sequence is at least 90% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 24.

3. The isolated polypeptide of claim 1 wherein said amino acid sequence is at least 95% identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 24.

4. An isolated polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 24.

5. A method for producing the polypeptide of claim 4, comprising expressing from a recombinant cell the polynucleotide encoding said polypeptide.

6. An antibody against a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of the polypeptides of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4.

7. The antibody of claim 6 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

8. The antibody of claim 6 wherein said antibody is a recombinant antibody.

9. A genetically engineered cell expressing the antibody of claim 8.

10. A method for detecting the presence of a porcine gamma-herpesvirus in a sample comprising detecting the presence of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of the polypeptides of claims 1, 2, 3, and 4.

11. A method for creating passive immunity in a pig comprising administering an immunogenically effective amount of an antibody according to Claim 6.

12. A composition comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of the polypeptides of claim 1, 2, 3, and 4 in a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

13. A vaccine comprising an immunogenically effective amount of the composition of claim 12.

14. A method of immunizing a pig against a porcine gamma-herpesvirus, comprising administering to said pig the vaccine of claim 13.

15. A method of immunizing a pig against a porcine gamma-herpesvirus, comprising administering to said pig an isolated polynucleotide encoding a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of the polypeptides of claims 1, 2, 3, and 4, wherein said polypeptide is expressed in an immunogenically effective amount.

16. An isolated nucleic acid probe comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36.

- 5            17. A method of detecting the presence of gamma herpesvirus in a sample comprising detecting in said sample the presence of a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a probe of claim 16.

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